

Blencoe and ties it back in together, and they have pumps sitting there and they're protecting themselves from the flood. And that little Blencoe doesn't need to be the Alamo for the flood of 2011. They can fight this flood off, and we want to be there to help them all that we can.

I have a business owner that builds trailers in Missouri Valley, Iowa. He had gone in and bought a business in downtown Missouri Valley a few years ago, and because of the floods from the nineties built a new location above the floodplain just on the outside of the town by the interstate, Interstate 29, which, by the way, is closed today because of the floodwaters covering the interstate highway. Mr. Speaker, he built a new plant above the floodplain so that he didn't have to be flooded out again.

And about 3 years ago, there was a quirk of weather and one of the major streams backed up and flooded his new plant, and he's one of the top trailer salespeople in America. It flooded his new plant with about 4 or 5 feet of water and destroyed some of his property that was in there. He picked his chin back up and went to work and cleaned up the mess and fixed the trailers that he could fix and junked the rest and started all over and put a smile back on his face and said, That's life, isn't it? And went to work in a courageous, American way.

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Now his plant that is built above the flood stage and was flooded 2 or 3 years ago is back under—and I can't confirm today that it's under water, but they predict it will be under 4 feet of water. And he has moved his equipment back down to the old plant. He has moved from the nonflood zone to the flood zone, where the old plant was, where they predict that one won't be under water. But his new plant that's out of the flood stage will be underwater.

The irony of all of this is not lost on him nor is it lost on me. Sometimes whatever you do, it's just going to end up to be wrong. This time, we have a lot of people that are suffering that maybe have done everything that they can do to protect themselves. We have farmsteads, Mr. Speaker, that are completely flooded, and we have hundreds of them that are under water.

All up and down on the west side of Interstate 29 in the southwest corner of Iowa, we've evacuated some 600 homes because they are all going under water. In the little town of Percival and two other small towns in that area, it has now been announced they will be underwater and flooded. And I hesitate to report exactly where that water is now. I am going tonight, and by the weekend, I will have looked at all that.

But the water that we have is unprecedented. It's strange in its nature in that floodwaters we see as silty, muddy water that is full of mud and silt and junk. Some of this is. Maybe 40 percent of this water is silt-laden water, but

more than half of it, perhaps 60 percent, Mr. Speaker, is clear water. And when you fly over it and you look down, you can see through that water, and you can see the striping on Interstate 29. You can see corn stalks, corn stems, little sprouted plants that grew up about this far before the water flooded them, and they are standing there underneath 1½ or 2 feet of clear water. It goes on and on. Bean stubble is the same way, little fixtures. You will see also irrigation systems standing out in the water. In 8 feet of water, there's an irrigation system standing there.

But this clear water that has emerged comes because the pressure from the river, hydrostatic pressure from the river, pushes down on the entire aquifer around there. As it pushes down, the water seeks its own level, so the silt and floodwater pushes down into the soil. When it does that, water equalizes, and it comes up out of the ground, sometimes on the other side of the levy on the east side of the interstate, in my case. It would be like the kind of water you would find in a drainage tile or well. It comes up and sits on the surface everywhere, clear and clean as can be, shutting down our transportation units, our interstate highway, and flooding family farms and businesses all up and down this river, and most of it has yet to reach St. Louis. This is a problem all the way across Missouri, from St. Louis all the way up into St. Joe and north. It's a problem for the entire Missouri River bottom, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana.

To put it in perspective also, Mr. Speaker, the flow coming down this river, when people think that the Corps of Engineers could have done something different, marginally they could have, as I said, but they would have had to have been clairvoyant, and they would have had to have violated the terms of the Master Manual.

But the flow coming down the river at 150,000 cubic feet per second happens to be the amount of water that's just coming out of the Yellowstone River, itself. So those people who want to turn these American rivers back to what they were before we managed them and controlled them and built the Pick-Sloan Program, I would ask you all, Mr. Speaker, to think: If 150,000 cubic feet per second is flowing out of the Yellowstone River—and it is—and 150,000 cubic feet per second is flowing past out of Gavins Point and past down through Sioux City, if the Pick-Sloan Program had not been built, if we had no dams in the Missouri River, if all the tributaries of the Missouri River were completely dry except for the Yellowstone River, that little tributary up there in Montana, we'd still have the same amount of water there right now. It wouldn't last as long, but it would be as high as the levels we have today. That's how much this helps us. We know those other tributaries are flowing a lot of water. There's a massive

amount. It's more than ever before. It's 54 million acre-feet for this year. It was a 500-year event in 1993. This is a 550-year event today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have called upon the President to declare this entire area a national disaster area. I know that Governor Branstad has made that request. I know that the Governors in some of the States, such as Nebraska and Montana, have made that request. I believe that that request has been granted in a couple of cases, not yet for Iowa. I know that Governor Branstad has made this request for Iowa. And I thank the entire Iowa congressional delegation for joining with me in a letter to President Obama in making the request that he declare this a national disaster.

We have had a long time to be working with this water. A lot of sandbags have been filled. Some more will be filled. Many have to be emptied when this water goes down. And what we are going to need the most is the prayers of the American people and perseverance.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your attention to this matter. I appreciate the Iowa delegation for standing with me and the delegations up and down the river who have stood together. We need to stand with the people whose property is under water and help them get through this. They are stoic people. They are determined people. They are not going to be standing there, complaining. They are going to be doing all they can to help themselves. And to honor their efforts, I and others are determined to do all we can to help them.

So that is the update on the 2011 flood, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your attention.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACHUS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of attending the funeral of his aunt, Nettie Butterworth, in Birmingham, Alabama.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 28, 2011, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

2193. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Madison, Wisconsin, and Southwestern Wisconsin Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-